



View of site looking East

Site Characteristics

Juniper Hill is a south-facing chalk slope on the North Downs at Kingswood, Surrey (VC17), approx. 160m above sea level, with a gradient of approx. 1 in 3, grid reference TQ 2389 5207.

The site lies within the Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment SAC/SSSI, designated for a variety of habitats and species, including a number of those typically found on chalk, and is managed by the National Trust. The slope is grazed by rabbits to a very short sward and bordered by mixed woodland, mainly deciduous, on all sides, with dominant hazel coppice to the south along the North Downs Way. Some scattered bare patches of earth are present across the grassed slope. Scrub encroachment has been managed over time to maintain the open grassland.



Methodology

Survey date: 18th July 2025

No of 2m square quadrats surveyed: 5

A species list was compiled in each quadrat, using the DOMIN scale of abundance, combined for all quadrats and run through the R Modular Analysis of Vegetation Information System (RMAVIS) and the Modular Analysis of Vegetation Information System (MAVIS) programs, with corroboration using British Plant Communities Volume 3: Grasslands and Montane Communities (JNCC, 1992).



Quadrat locations

Results

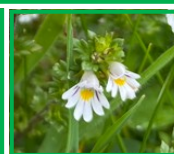
Species/Quadrat	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	5		8		
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>			1		
<i>Avenula pubescens</i>				1	3
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	1				
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	1	3		3	
<i>Briza media</i>	3	1	1	3	1
<i>Carex flacca</i>	8	8	8	8	8
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>		1			
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	1	1	1	1	
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	3	3	5		1
<i>Cynanchica pyrenaica</i>	3	3	1	3	3
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	3	1			
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>					1
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	8	8	8	8	8
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	1	1	3	3	1
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	5	8	8	8	8
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>					1
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	3	3	1		3
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>		1	3		3
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>			1	3	1
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	1	5	5	5	5
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>				1	
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	8	5	8	8	8
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	3	1	1		3
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	1	1	1		3
<i>Thymus drucei</i>	1	1	1	3	3
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	3	3		1	3
<i>Viola hirta</i>	1	3	5	3	5

Conclusion

The survey area appears to be closest to a CG2 *Festuca ovina* - *Avenula pratensis* grassland, with all constant species for this community present. CG2 comprises a mix of grass and herbs in a continuous sward, with no species consistently dominant, especially where the vegetation is grazed by rabbits. Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* is predominant in CG2, with meadow oat grass *Avenula pratensis*, crested hair grass *Koeleria macrantha* and quaking grass *Briza media* occurring frequently. Shrubs and trees often invade CG2, including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. All these species except crested hair grass and blackthorn were found on the survey.

Some parts of the slope are close to CG2a *Cirsium acaule* - *Asperula cynanchica* subcommunity, the most frequently-found in the south east, characteristically species rich, with all constant species present, with the addition of dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, squinancywort *Cynanchica pyrenaica* (previously *Asperula cynanchica*) and occasional horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*. All these species except dwarf thistle were found on the survey.

A number of shrub species encroach on the grassland surveyed, including roses *Rosa sp.*, hawthorn and wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana* and in order to maintain the grassland communities present, scrub removal should continue.

*Linum catharticum**Cynanchica pyrenaica**Euphrasia sp.*